



Fairhills High School
2024
Year 7 and 8
Handbook

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Information in this subject selection handbook is correct as of 10/12/2023

INTRODUCTION

The Fairhills High School Year 7 and 8 Handbook has been developed to assist and inform all Year 7 and 8 students, parents/carers and staff. All the relevant policies, procedures and requirements specific to Year 7 and 8 are outlined within this handbook. Students and parents are asked to read and familiarise themselves with the contents of this handbook. The handbook and other essential information and forms are located on the Fairhills High School website https://fairhillshs.vic.edu.au/

At Fairhills High School, Year 7 and 8 is the beginning of students' high school journey.

Students who have success in Year 7 and 8 have the following learning dispositions:

- · Hard working in all areas of school life
- Attend school well over 95% of the time
- Set and review meaningful pathway goals
- Ask for help and use available supports
- · Seek and respond positively to feedback
- Create strong and respectful relations with others
- Maintain a positive, healthy school and life balance

More specific details regarding Year 7 and 8 programs, guidelines and practices will be available on the school website.

2024 TERM AND KEY DATES

Term 1: Tuesday 30 January - Thursday 28 March

Monday 11 March – Labour Day

Term 2: Monday 15 April - Friday 28 June

- Thursday 25 April Anzac Day
- Monday 10 June King's Birthday

Term 3: Monday 15 July - Friday 20 September

Term 4: Monday 7 October - Thursday 19 December

- 5 November Melbourne Cup Day
- 25 November 7 December 2025 Headstart (2025 VCE/VCE VM classes)

SCHOOL INFORMATION

The partnership between a school and home is essential in supporting students throughout their educational journey. Throughout the year there will be many opportunities to become involved. The school aims to have ongoing contact with home, and this is done primarily through Compass portal. **Principal - Mr Ian Van Schie**

Middle School Assistant Principal – Ms Silvana La Leggia

Oversees all school matters in the Middle School (Years 7 – 9)

Year 7 and 8 Team Leader - Ms Sarah Power

The Team Leader at each year level should be the first contact for most matters relating to courses, student wellbeing, attendance, and conduct. A Team Leaders first and foremost priority is to support all students to have a positive approach to all areas of schooling life.

Pedagogy and Curriculum Leader – Mr Peter Morgan

Oversees teacher pedagogy and curriculum in year 10.

Oversees Middle School teacher pedagogy and curriculum in years 7-10

Other Contacts

Year 7 and 8 "Thrive" subject teachers - are an important support for students and assist them with their learning and broader skill development.

Individual subject teachers can be contacted directly about student progress.

Student Wellbeing Team - offers counselling and support to students on a wide range of concerns.

To speak with any of these staff, contact the General Office on (03) 9758 5022.

YEAR 7 AND 8 COMPLETION

Year 7 and 8 is viewed as an important link for students moving to the middle school from primary school. We aim to provide students with a broad, flexible, and engaging curriculum that gives them an opportunity for choice in the development of their courses of study.

Year 7 and 8 students are expected to demonstrate satisfactory progress in their learning across the curriculum and in particular the key core subjects of English and Mathematics. In order to progress into Year 9 students, need to satisfactorily complete a suitable number of units (core and elective) over both semesters of Year 7 and 8. Individual student learning progress throughout each semester will be reviewed and pathway planning will be provided to support students potentially not being able to meet these requirements.

COMPASS

Compass is the student learning and management system used by Fairhills High School at https://fairhillshs-vic.compass.education/

It is the key communication system the school uses to provide information to students and families. Parents/Carers need to ensure they:

- 1. are able to log in
- 2. provide current email details
- 3. log in at least once a week to check student timetable, notices, activities, attendance and assessment details
- 4. follow up with the appropriate school contact if there are any concerns/issues
- 5. refer to the school's IT Department for support with Compass technical issues or to check log in details
- 6. use the Compass system to provide consent and pay for events and school fees

MATERIALS & LAPTOP DEVICES

The required learning materials are on the booklist (see link below) and it is essential that students take their textbooks and materials to every class as required.

https://fairhillshs.vic.edu.au/enrolment/booklists/

Students are required to bring their laptops to classes as required by their subject teachers. Students must make sure their laptops are fully charged and in good working order each day. Students experiencing technical difficulties with their school laptops need to promptly report the matter to the school's Technical Support Team at itsupport@fairhillshs.vic.edu.au

BEHAVIOURIAL EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to conform to the behavioural expectations set out in the Fairhills High School Student Management Plan. Our school values of Acting responsibly, Building relationships and Showing respect (ABS) form the focus of expectations related to student behaviour, and all Year 7 and 8 students are expected to consistently demonstrate these values in their involvement with all members of the school community.

Fairhills High School is fully committed to the School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (SWPBS) framework that brings together school communities to develop positive, safe, supportive learning cultures. As a SWPBS School we will implement the essential features of this approach to allow teachers and students more time to focus on relationships and classroom instruction.

MOBILE PHONES

The Mobile Phone policy clearly outline the process and expectations. Mobile phones brought to school are to be switched off and remain in lockers during the whole school day, including recess and lunchtime. Students who choose to bring mobile phones to school are required to securely store them in their lockers during school hours. Confiscation of a mobile phone seen in a student's possession will initially occur, with further consequences (including suspension) for refusal or repeated failure to follow the mobile phone policy.

When urgent contact is necessary, parents/carers are able to reach their child by calling the General Office any time during the school day.

ATTENDANCE/ABSENCE

100% attendance is compulsory for all students (unless an exemption has been granted). Daily attendance is important for all students to succeed in education and to ensure they do not fall behind both socially and developmentally. "Everyday counts".

Parents/Carers must ensure that their child attends school at all times when the school is open for instruction.

For absences where there is no exemption in place, the parent/carer must promptly provide an explanation on each occasion to the school. The Principal will determine if the explanation provided is a reasonable excuse under the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic).

The school is required to record attendance in every class and must record, in writing, the reason given for each absence. This is necessary so that the school can meet legislative requirements, meet its duty of care to students and meet the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) requirements. Students whose attendance is unsatisfactory may find that they are ineligible to pass the subject.

Students who fall below 90% attendance may be required to attend an attendance re-engagement meeting with their Team Leader and/or Assistant Principal.

PUNCTUALITY

Punctuality to each class is very important. Students are expected to arrive on time to each class with their necessary materials and laptop. Those who arrive late will be marked as late on the roll. Parents/carers are able to view their child's attendance and punctuality on Compass. Excessive lateness will be regarded as an absence and will impact on their unapproved absence rate. Students will be issued with a detention if they are continuously late.

BELL TIMES

Two different bell times run during the week:

- Monday and Thursday (includes House Group)
- Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday

	Monday & Thursday	Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday		
Period 1	8.40am-9.39am	8.40am-9.39am		
Period 2	9.39am-10.38am	9.39am-10.38am		
Recess	10.38am-10.58am (20 mins)	10.38am-10.58am (20 mins)		
Period 3	10.58am-11.57am	10.58am-11.57am		
Period 4	11.57am-12.56pm	11.57am-12.56pm		
Lunch	12.56pm-1.36pm (40 mins)	12.56pm-1.36pm (40 mins)		
Housegroup	1.36pm-1.49pm	N/A		
Period 5	1.49pm-2.48pm	1.36pm-2.35pm		

HOMEWORK

The School requests that parents/carers monitor and encourage their children to complete regular homework and study. Parents/carers are asked to assist in establishing a suitable environment for study and conditions conducive to completing homework. This is essential for all students in order to complete set tasks given by teachers, as well as catch up on incomplete or missed work. At the Year 7 and 8 level completing all work and consistent study (including revision) is a key to the successful completing CATs.

Students who complete homework to a high standard in Year 7 and 8 are better prepared for the rigours and workload demands of Year 9 and can expect to spend between 1 to 2 hours of homework Monday-Thursday, and further study on weekends during key assessment periods.

Students should also complete independent study in preparation for Common Assessment Tasks (CATs)

It is essential that students create positive homework and study habits. These include:

- Removing all distractions e.g. mobile phones/TVs
- Studying in chunks of 25 minutes
- Use of a study timetable

ASSESSMENT

Common Assessment Tasks (CATs) are specific tasks which assess a student's level of understanding and achievement for a particular topic/unit of work based on the requirements of each subject. All Year 7 and 8 subjects are aligned with the Victorian Curriculum and three or four CATs will form the basis of assessment for each subject. At the start of each unit teachers will provide students with a course outline which includes assessment dates and conditions for each task. CAT dates and results will be recorded on Compass within the subject's learning tasks.

To achieve a Satisfactory outcome for each CAT the student must:

- Produce work that meets the required standard
- Submit work on time
- Submit work that is clearly the student's own work
- Meets the Fairhills High School attendance requirements

A student may **not** receive a Satisfactory completion for a CAT if:

- Work is not of the required standard
- The student has failed to meet a school deadline for the assessment task, including where an extension of time has been granted for any reason, including special provision
- Work cannot be authenticated
- There has been a substantive breach of rules including school attendance requirements.

A student must achieve a result of 50% or above on a CAT to receive an Satisfactory for a given area of work in all subjects.

REPORTING

The school strongly encourages parents/carers to access Compass at least once a week to monitor their student's progress. Compass provides results of assessment and learning tasks throughout the semester, as well as attendance data. If a parent/carer has any concerns they should contact the subject teacher or Year 7 and 8 Team Leader immediately.

Subject reports will be made available electronically via Compass for each student at the end of each semester.

CAT BREACHES

A "breach" is any infringement that gives a student an unfair or unreasonable advantage in terms of assessment. If there is an alleged breach of a CAT a Year 7&8 panel will be created to investigate it.

A Year 7 and 8 panel consists of:

- A member of the Principal Team
- Year 7 and 8 Team Leader
- Subject Teacher
- A parent may be involved (but not in an advocate role)

A Year 7 and 8 panel has the power to impose the following consequences:

- Award the CAT an N
- The student to re-sit the task or complete a redemption task to receive an S
- If it is a second offence, (in any subject), the student will fail the subject

Breaches, (not an exhaustive list), which will result in disciplinary action are:

- Plagiarism
- Unauthorised use of technology
- Communicating with others
- Other breaches specified by the Middle School Leader

ABSENCE FROM A CAT

Students may not miss a CAT assessment session (including an exam) without approval. Approved absences may be granted for:

- An illness explained by a medical certificate
- An official school excursion
- An official sporting event
- Exceptional personal circumstances. Approval for these is given at the discretion of a Year 7&8 Team Leader.

If a student is absent for a CAT or exam they must:

- 1. Provide a medical certificate by handing it into the General Office within three working days of the assessment session
- 2. Complete the CAT/exam at a suitable time negotiated with the subject teacher.

A student will receive an unsatisfactory grade for the CAT if the above conditions are not met.

REDEMPTION PROCESS

If work submitted by a student for the assessment of a CAT does not meet the required standard for satisfactory outcome, ie. below 50%) the teacher/s of the subject will select a consistent approach from the following options:

- 1. Course work confirmation The student can demonstrate an understanding of the outcome through completion of specified classwork and homework.
- 2. Student teacher conference A student can verbally explain knowledge of the area. The teacher will also ask questions related to the area.
- 3. Identical or equivalent CAT A teacher may require a student to re-sit a CAT or complete a similar CAT. The re-sit will be completed in a prompt manner. The teacher must make a time available to assist the student in preparing for the redemption of a CAT.

Students have a maximum of two weeks to redeem after being informed of their score on the original CAT. In exceptional circumstances an extension may be approved by the Middle School Assistant Principal.

AUTHENTICATION

It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that there are no difficulties in authenticating their work. It is important that students keep drafts and preparatory work that leads into the completion of a CAT as required. Teachers must monitor and record each student's development of an Assessment Task, from planning to drafting, through to completion. The process of monitoring the development of a CAT requires the teacher to regularly sight the work and record the progression. The process of authentication will differ from subject to subject, and from task to task.

CHANGE OF SUBJECTS

A change of subject should not be taken lightly. Students must speak to their Year 7 and 8 Team Leader about possible elective changes. The student will be required to complete the change of subject form which must be signed by:

- 1. The student
- 2. Year 7 and 8 Team Leader
- 3. Parent/carer

No subject changes can be made unless the form is completed and signed by all the required people.

CURRICULUM

In the Middle School years, a core curriculum is studied to ensure steady progress towards VCE subjects. The Years 7 and 8 common curriculum is structured to enable students to experience a wide range of subjects, with a focus on the eight Victorian Curriculum Learning Areas:

- The Arts (Arts and Design, Drama and Music)
- English
- Health and Physical Education
- Humanities
- Language (Japanese)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Technologies (Digital Technology)

THRIVE program

To support our students to achieve their full potential the THRIVE program has been developed..

The THRIVE acronym is the beginning letter of a disposition that students need to develop for ongoing success in their teen and adult life.

Teenagers who THRIVE are: Happy, Resilient, Inquisitive, Valiant and Empowered.

The definition of THRIVE is to:

- Grow vigorously flourish
- To gain in wealth or possession prosper
- To progress toward or realise a goal despite or because of circumstances

UNIFORM

The wearing of the school uniform is compulsory for all students and students are required to comply with the Fairhills High School Uniform Dress Code.

Students are required to wear their uniform neatly, respectably and correctly at all times including to and from the school and on all school excursions. The Fairhills High School uniform infringement process will apply to students who are out of uniform.

BULLYING PREVENTION

Fairhills High School is committed to providing a safe and respectful learning environment where bullying will not be tolerated. The School's aim is to empower all students to be an Upstander. Fairhills High School has a very clear response to allegations of bullying using the Fairhills High School bullying response process. Students can report Anonymously via the Stymie app at www.stymie.com.au

APPENDICES - POLICIES AND **PROCEDURES**

Any element of provocation

Impact on victims(s)

Severity and frequency of the bullying

Bullying Response Process



Bulling occurs when someone, or a group of people, deliberately and repeatedly upset, harass, intimidate, threaten or

Fairhills High School Bullying Response Process

hurt another person or damage their property, reputation or social acceptance. It can be

direct/indirect/physical/verbal and includes cyberbullying.

The Year Level Team Leader (YLTL) will investigate any potential bullying issue in a timely manner

The YLTL will speak to 1-3 and 4-5 if necessary:

- The alleged victim(s). Student(s) complete an incident report

- Relevant staff members e.g. Assistant Principal- students The alleged perpetrator(s), student(s) complete an incident report
- Relevant external stakeholders e.g. Parents

if bullying has occurred the following factors need to be considered when determining a response (not an exhaustive

Ongoing monitoring Group targeted strategies	 Age and maturity of students
70 2	
Mediation Sessions Restorative practices	 Past behaviours
Disciplinary consequences Safety plan	Group or individual bullying
Counselling support Educational support	idual bullying

For further information please refer to the Bullying Prevention Policy on the school website

Documentation to be kept at all stages and transferred to Compass by the YLTL

Fairhills High School Uniform Infringement Process

First Infringement

- Students warned and reminded of student dress code
- Warning entered on Compass
- Parents informed via a Uniform Level 1 email/notification infringement notice

Second Infringement

'n

- Student issued lunch-time detention
- Parents informed via a Uniform Level 2 email/notification infringement notice If a student does not attend the lunch-time detention it will be escalated automatically to the

Third Infringement

next Level

'n

- Thursday after school detention issued
- Parents informed via a Uniform Level 3 email/notification infringement notice
- If a student does not attend the after-school detention it will be escalated automatically to the next level

Record on Compass Sub-school Leader (MSL/SSL)/Team leader (TL) to phone home to discuss uniform concerns

4

Fourth Infringement

Ϋ́

- Fifth Infringement
- Parents informed via a Uniform Level 5 email/notification infringement notice

One day internal suspension issued by the Sub-School Leader /TL – Learning provided by teachers

9 Sixth Infringement

A Parent meeting/conversation with the Principal



infringement of a uniform pass will ensure that a at the start of the day and the issue parent note to the Team Leader (TL) student does not receive an The appropriate presentation of a

The note should explain:

- The reason for the unitorm
- If there is financial hardship When it will be fixed (no longer than five working the school can assist.

Anything else deemed important

authorisation pass." the student an "out of uniform beginning of the day, who will give clothing. The student needs to show for shoes, jackets and other like facial piercings or hair colouring but the communication to the TL at the The note is not for infringements like

Student Management Plan

Adjor Behaviours Non- Negotiables Persistent Bullying & harassment medium level Parigerous Aviolent behaviour Major Parigerous Aviolent behaviour Destruction of property Repeated jefusal to follow instructions Swearing/threatening towards a Person Major disruption/defiance	Persistent Distracting others from learning low level minor or medium Refusal to complete coursework Behaviours Not an exhaustive list Distracting others from learning othe	Not an exhaustive list Low level Minor Minor Behaviours - Uniform Use of mobile phones	Not an exhaustive list Act Responsibly can be demonstrated by: Develop high expectations Lead by example Follow school rules Build Relationships can be demonstrated by: Be honest, authentic and inclusive Be reliable & trustworthy Showing Respect can be demonstrated by: Look after yourself, others and the school Use appropriate tone and language Develop a safe & caring environment	Infringement School Values (ABS)	FAIRHILLS
fiables f ehaviour rry follow instructions g towards a lance	m learning v instructions ds a person coursework	ork ut permission s	ve list constrated by: tations smannstrated by: and inclusive rithy monstrated by: thers and the and language ring environment	ABS)	
TL MSL/SSL AP-Students Principal	Classroom teacher Teacher on duty	Classroom teacher All staff members	All staff members	Responsibility	(
 Implementation of strategies in line with the Department of Education's & FHS policies & procedures. Counselling Educational support/behaviour Individual Education Plan/Safety & Behavioural Plan Reterral/notification External Agencies/IRIS Alerts Suspension (internal & external) 	 Implementation of school policies & procedure e.g. Mobile phones Implementation of classroom agreement and management strategies Other strategies/actions suggested by the TL 	 Implementation of school policies & procedure e.g. Mobile phones Implementation of classroom agreement and PCB management strategies Other strategies/actions suggested by the TL 	Not an exhaustive list Verbal praise Compass award Communicate with Year Level Team Leader (TL) Communication with home Nomination(s) for the Awards night Leadership application Excellent school report	Actions and Strategies	
Compass Incident reports TL (Parents) MSL/SSL (Parents) AP-Students (External Reporting) Principal (External reporting)	Compass Classroom Teacher TL	Compass Classroom Teacher Staff member	Compass Staff member who recognised the positive behaviour.	Reporting	

Positive Classroom Behaviour Model – 4- R process

Level 1 - Remind/Re-direct Learning

 The teacher reminds the student of the expected behaviour and re-directs them in their learning

Level 2 - Relocate/Recall

 Move to another seat or outside the classroom for 2-3 minutes. Student will need to recall disengaged behaviour that led to relocate and be willing to follow classroom rules/agreement

Level 3 - Remove to another class

- Red card is used. Send a responsible student to the Main office to alert the office staff for the need for a removal in a specified class room.
- A member of the leadership team (as per the leadership schedule) will remove the student and escort them to an appropriate space and get them to fill out the restore and re-entry agreement
- Student works quietly in a senior class
- Classroom teacher records the removal and reason on Compass as a red post

Level 4 - Restore prior to retuning to class

- Teacher and student meet and agree on expected behaviours for return.
 Documented by teacher on Compass.
- Students will be issued with the appropriate consequences as outlined in the FHS student management plan for major behaviours.

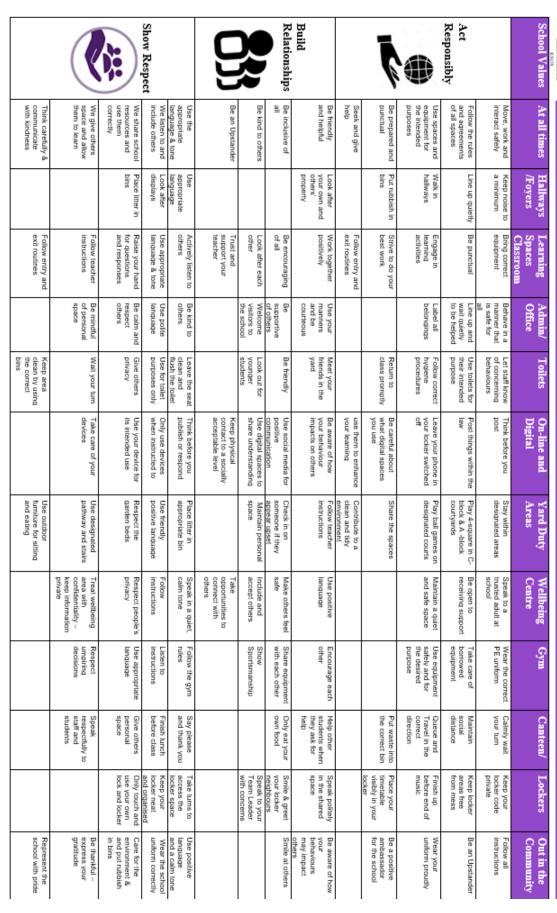
Attendance Process

Inspiring and empowering members of our school community to achieve their full potential in an inclusive and supportive environment.

Fairhills High School - Attendance process

	all fills fright ochool – Attend	idiloc process			
STAGE 1	All staff con	nmunication			
	 Clearly communicate high expectations 				
>= 90%	All staff promote message that 'every day counts'				
class schl %	Accurately mark rolls through Compass Metivate students to attend through and	aging learning and strong relationships			
	Motivate students to attend through engaging learning and strong relationships Reward and incentivise regular attendees with SWPB points				
STAGE 2	Reward and incentivise regular attendees with SWPB points Teacher communication				
STAGE 2	Teachers to speak to any student below				
below 90%	Refer to Team Leader if required.	30 /0 101 01033 3011 /0			
class schl %	Relei to Team Leader il Tequiled.				
Class SCIII 70					
STAGE 3	Team Lead	er communication			
STAGES		ents/carers attendance concerns, expectations			
below 85%	and attendance process.	interval of a dictional of controlling, expectations			
class schl %	Parent/carer may wish to communicate further with the Team Leader to discuss				
Class SCIII /0	possible support/concerns.				
STAGE 4	Attendance Strated	gies Meeting (ASM)			
OTAGE 4		municate with parent/carer and set-up an			
below 80%	Attendance Strategies Meeting (ASM)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
class schi %	0 1	SMART goals via an Attendance Strategies			
Cidos acini /e	Plan (ASP).				
	A follow up ASM (6-8 weeks) may be required for ongoing support.				
	If all goals on the ASP are achieved the student may				
OTAORA	receive a satisfactor				
STAGE 5	Unsatisfactory due to attendance communication				
A O DIn	The Team Leader informs the student and teacher(s) that an 'unsatisfactory due to				
ASP goals	attendance' will be placed on their report. The student is expected to continue to				
not met or	attend and complete the required learning to the expected level. The sub-school leader will inform the parent/carer via an emailed letter.				
parent/carer did not	The sub-school leader will inform the parent/carer via an emailed letter.				
actively engage with	The school will continue to support the student to attend and include:				
school	Ongoing contact home by Attendance officer				
8611861	Further ASM				
	For chronic absenteeism				
	Referral to the School Attendance Officer at the Department of Education				
	Referral to Navigator program Relies welfare check if the parent/carer is not responding.				
STAGE 6	Police welfare check if the parent/carer is not responding. Appeal				
STAGE	Appeal				
Anneal	A parent may wish to appeal the decision within 14 days by writing a letter to the Principal outlining the reason(s) e.g. exceptional circumstances. The Principal may set up an appeal				
Appeal	panel to investigate the information provided.				
only if attendance is above 75%	panel to investigate the information provided.				
is above 75%	Possible Outcomes				
	Appeal not successful	Appeal successful			
	Student will receive an N on their report for	Student may meet attendance			
	attendance and is expected to continue to	requirements. Conditions may be imposed.			
1		reconnecties, Conditions they be imposed.			
	·				
	attend to support their learning.	Any breaches may result in an attendance unsatisfactory.			

School Wide Positive Behaviour Matrix



FAIRHILLS